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**"Social Security is
safe in my hands."**

EDITOR'S NOTES

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What an incredible time to be alive! I'm sure our future children and grandchildren will listen to our stories of the 80's and 90's with ears perked up and eyes wide. So much change without war and yet so much of the war machine laying idly by watching.

The thing that scares me though about this East/West openness is that one of the first businesses allowed into the Soviet Union is McDonalds. The largest burger seller in the world also the largest cause of deforestation in the world. See McD's buys huge tracts of land, primarily tropical rain forest, in Brazil because it's cheap. Then they cut all the trees down, plant grass and grow cattle. Sounds crazy but it's true.

By getting Russian's hooked on burgers and fries McD's beef production will have to increase as well as the rate of deforestation.

So eat lunch at The Black Sheep or Iron Horse or Subway or anywhere but McDonald's.

I'm still looking for that ever perfect housemate. So spread the word. I live in a big beautiful country home with hardwood floors, fireplace, huge kitchen, washer dryer and much more. The room available is large with lots of light, a private bathroom and a closet big enough for a small elephant.

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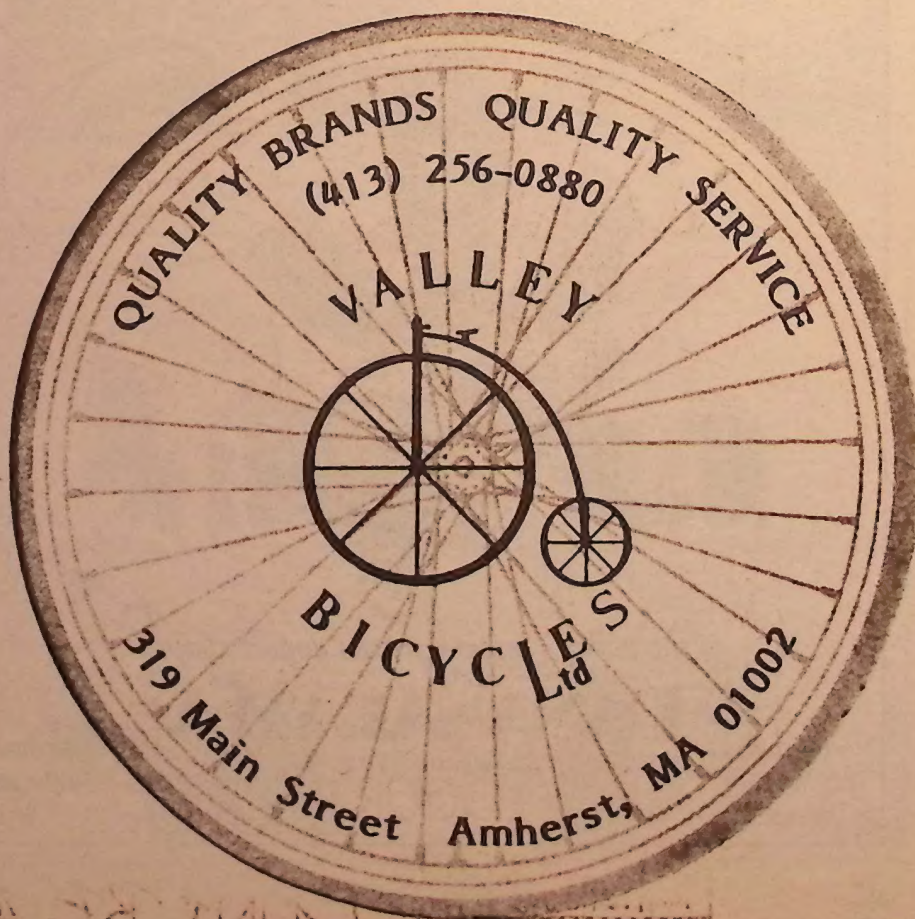
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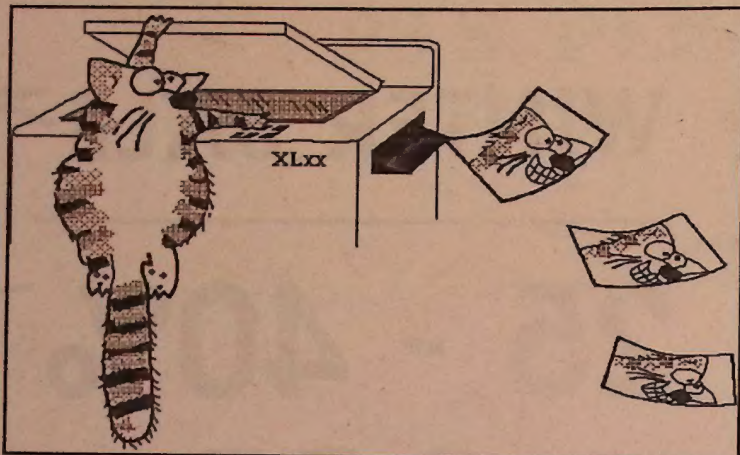
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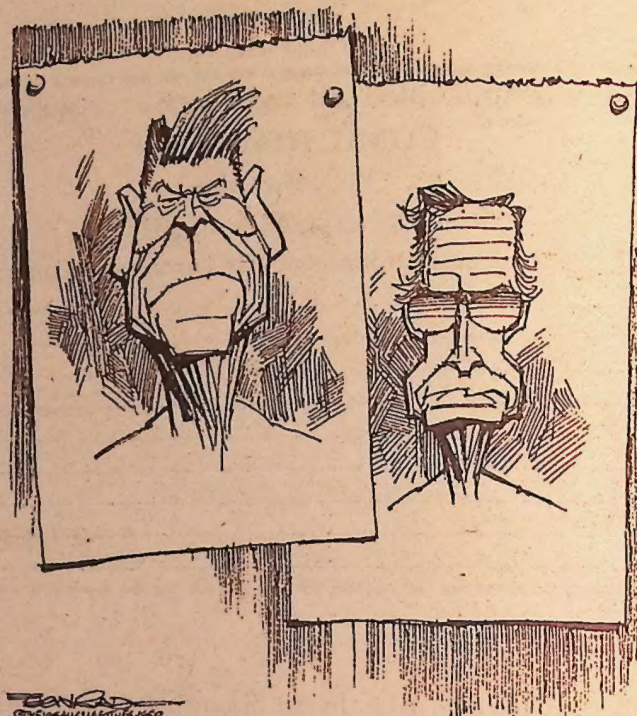
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ARTISTS SKETCHES OF THE TWO MEN WHO STOLE FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND TO CONCEAL BUDGET DEFICITS.

Why are the Ice Cream Parlors now selling frozen yogurt?



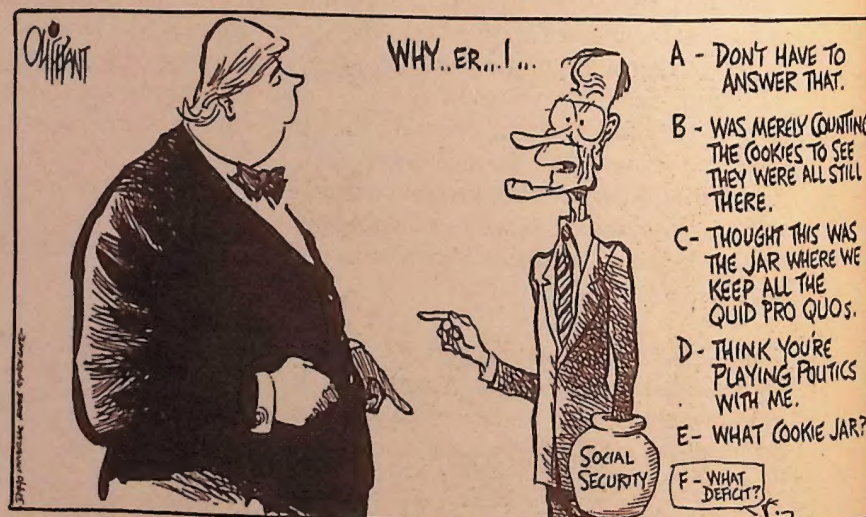
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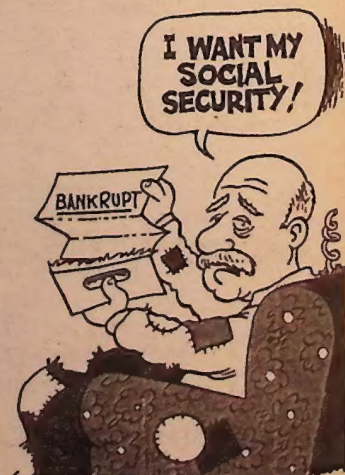
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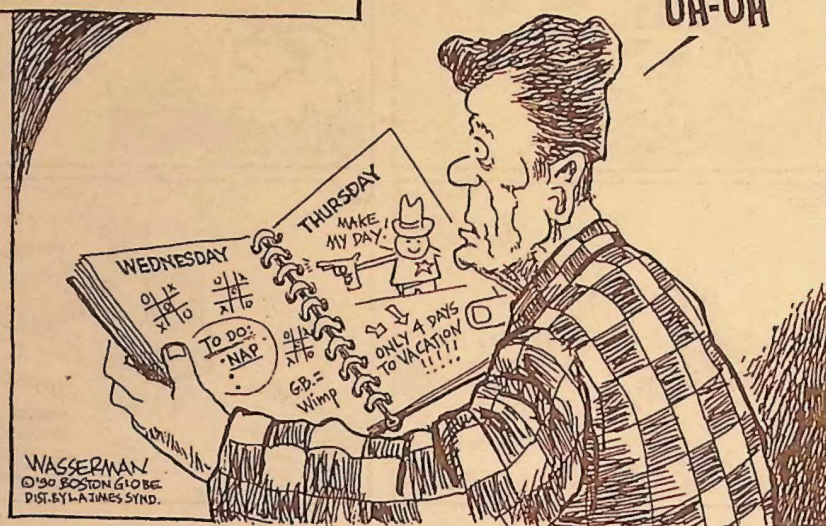
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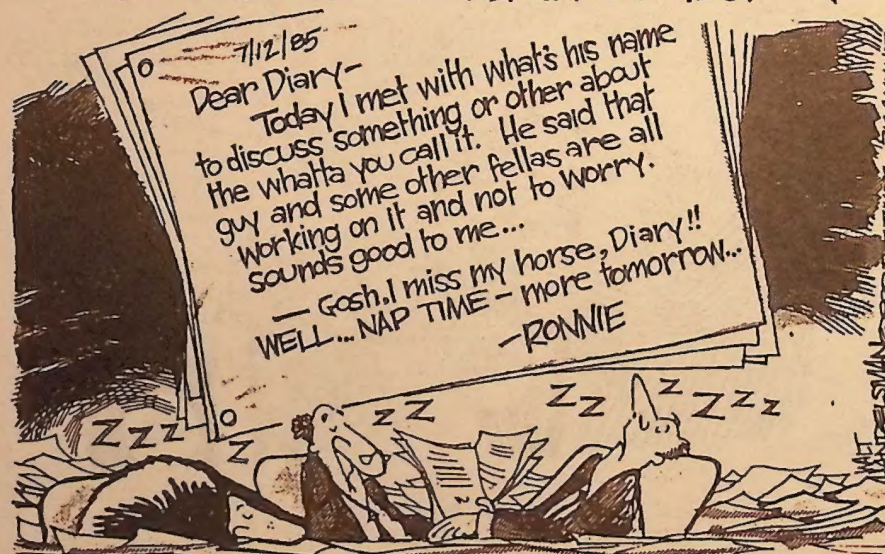
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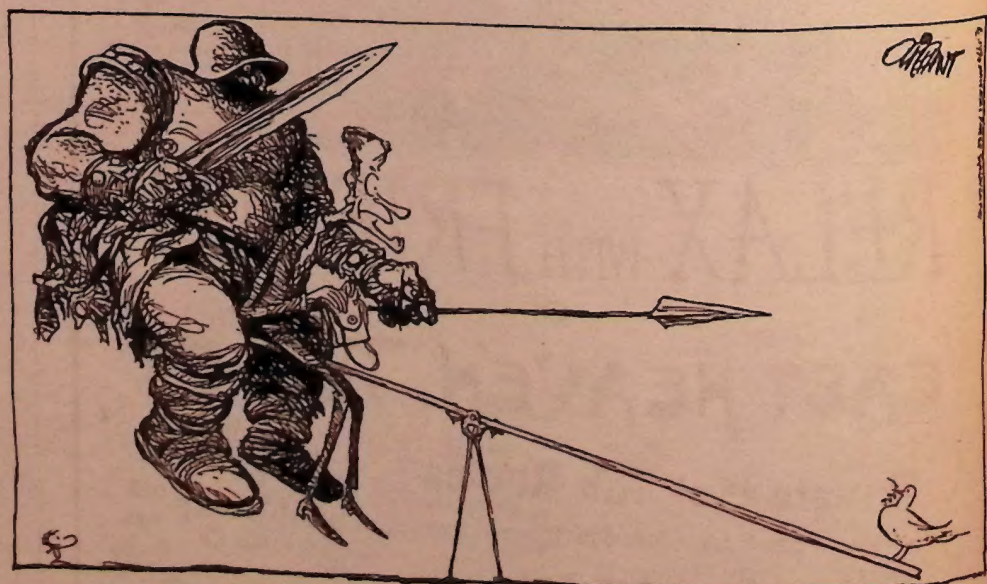
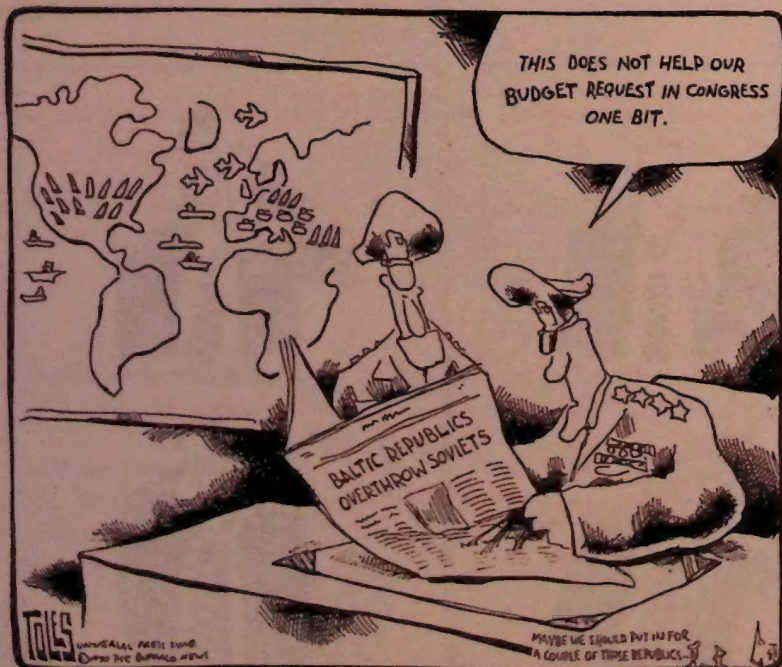
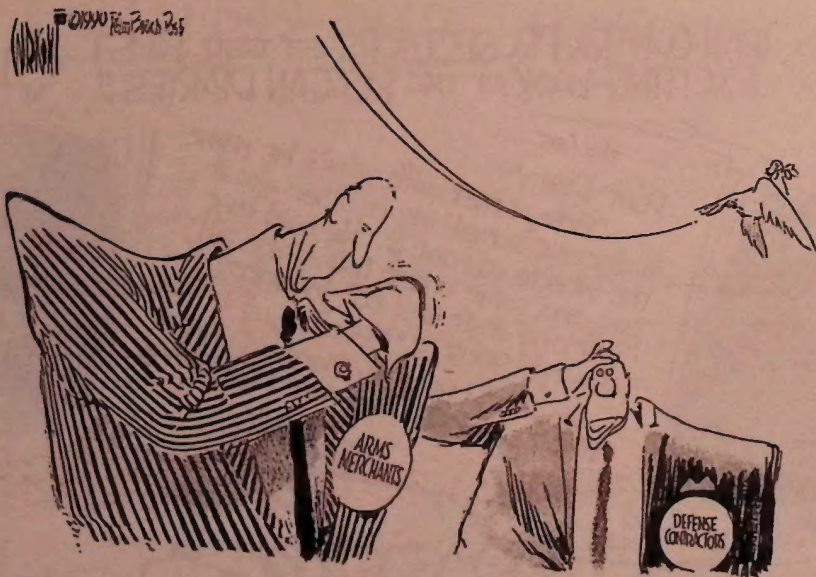
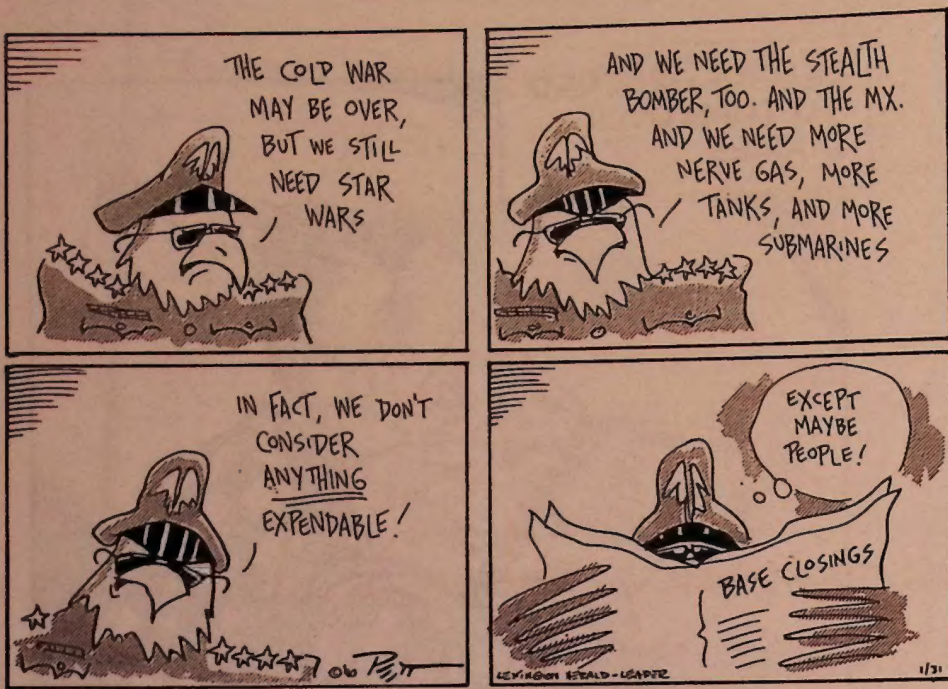
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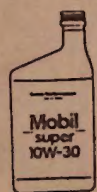


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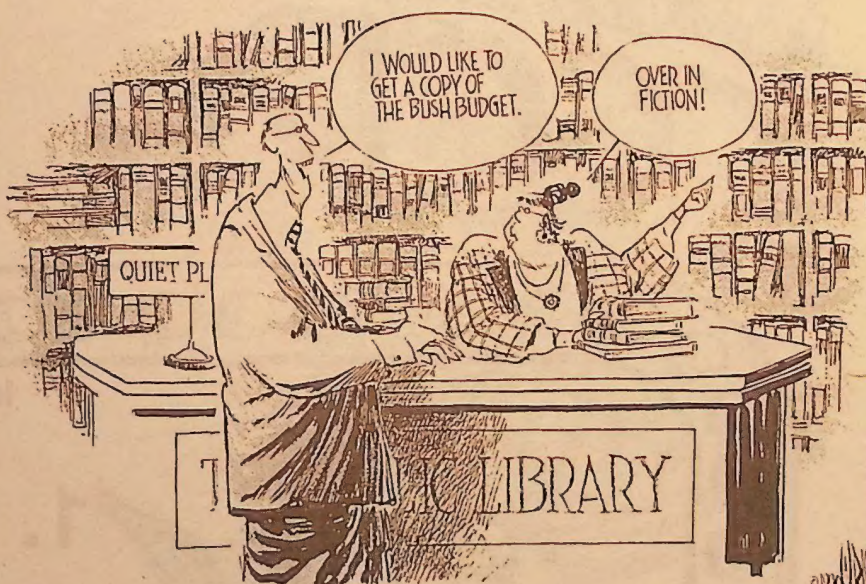
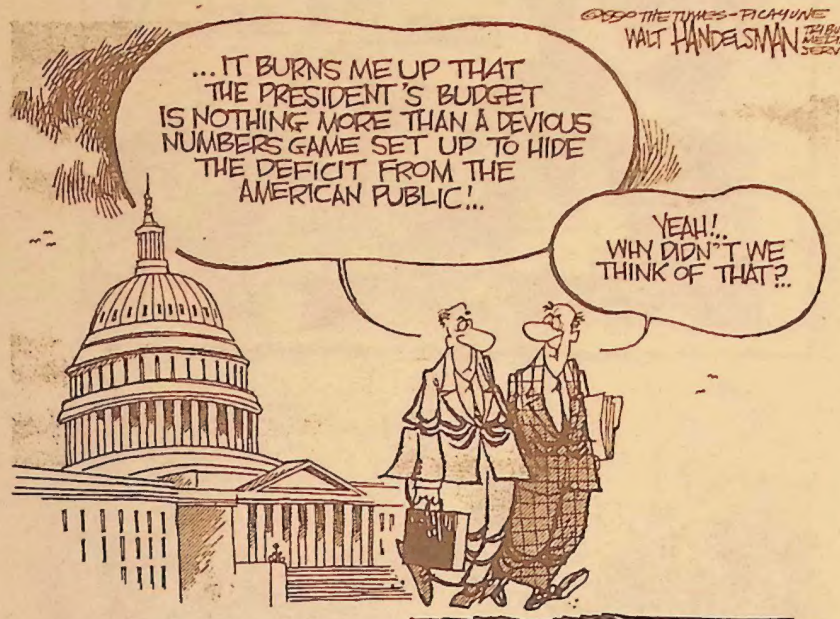
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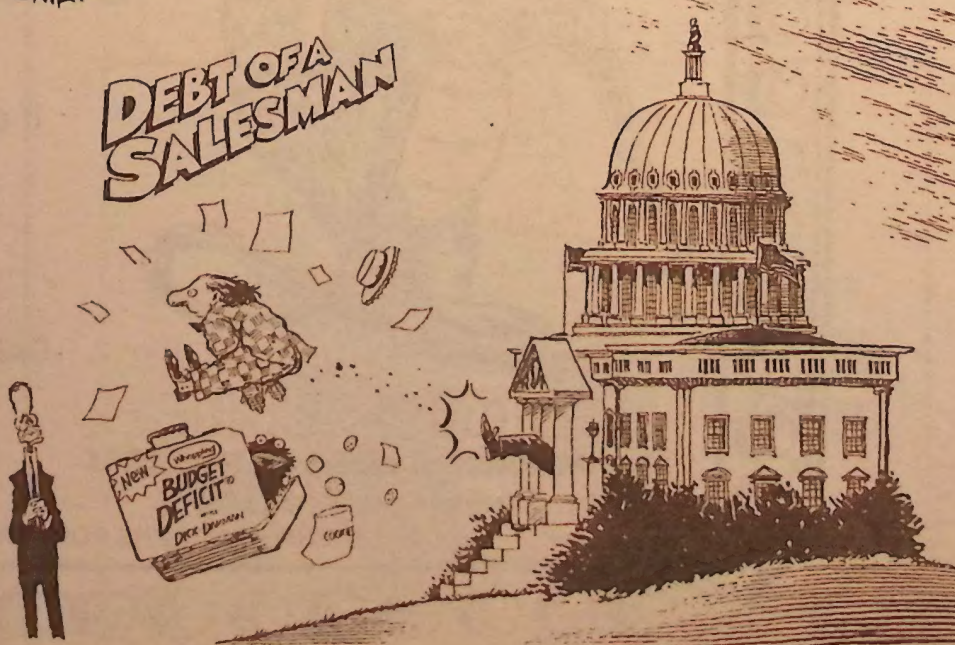
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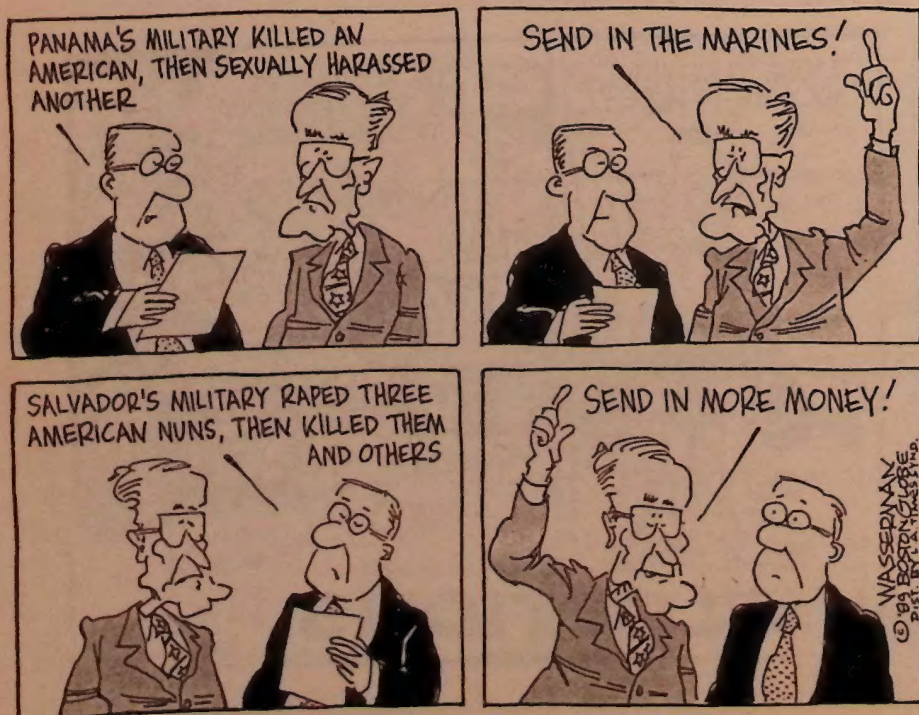
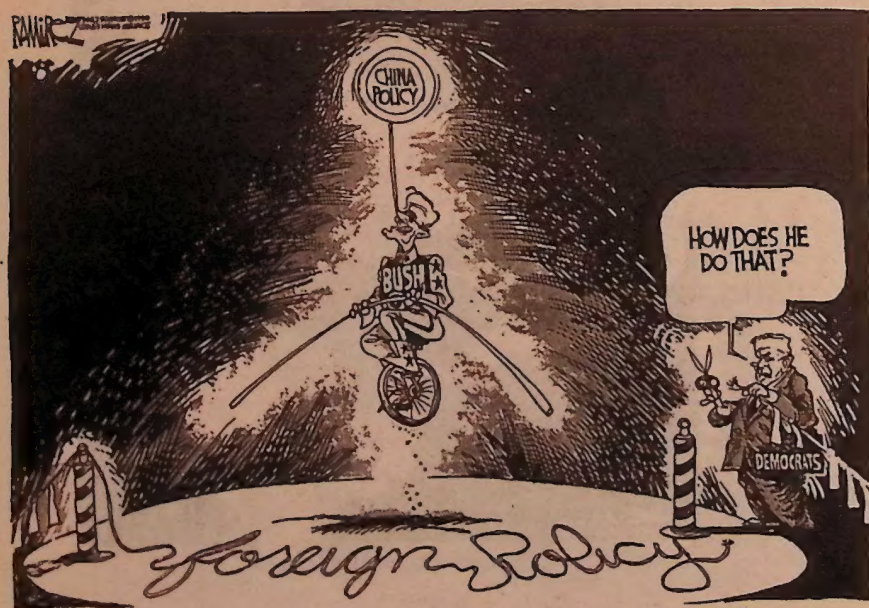
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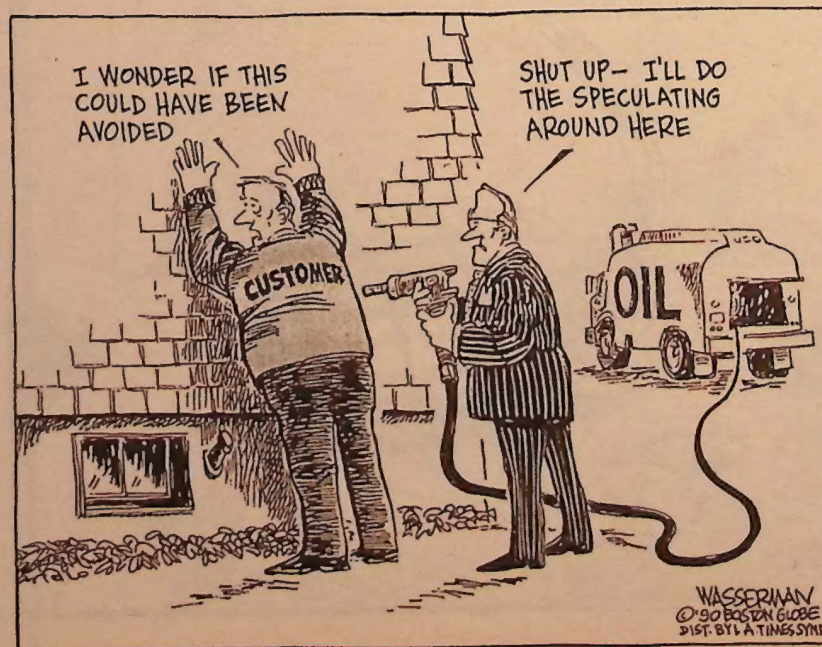
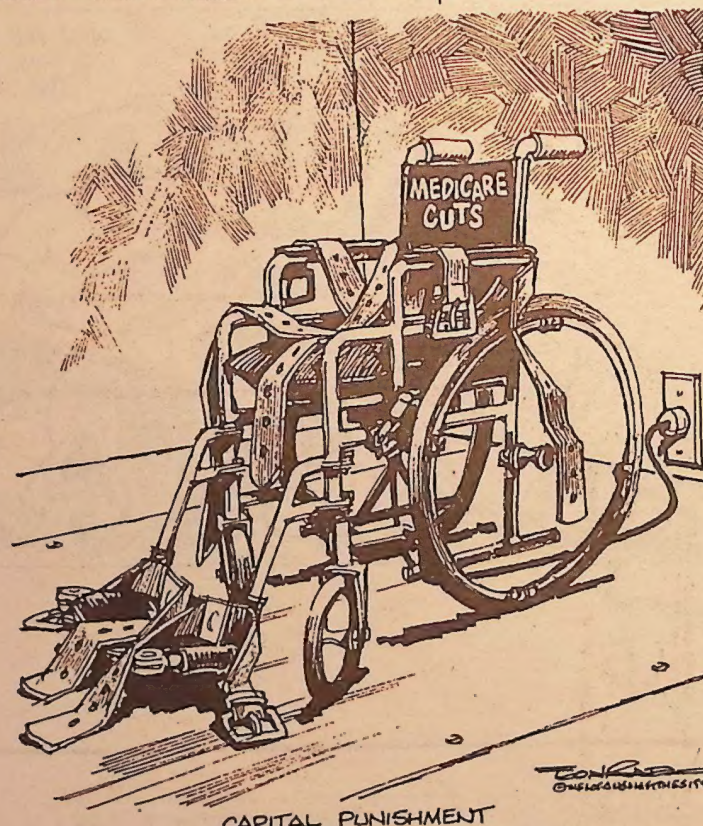
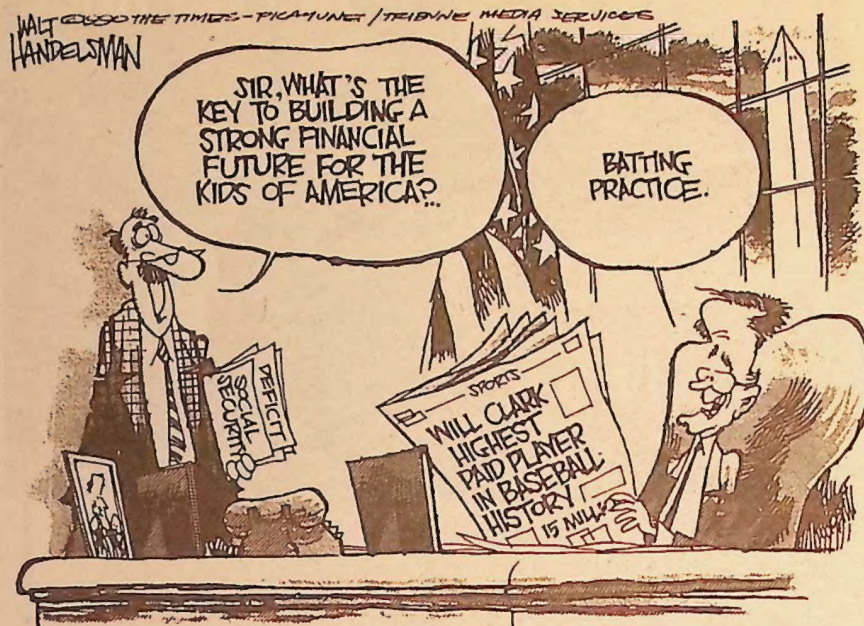
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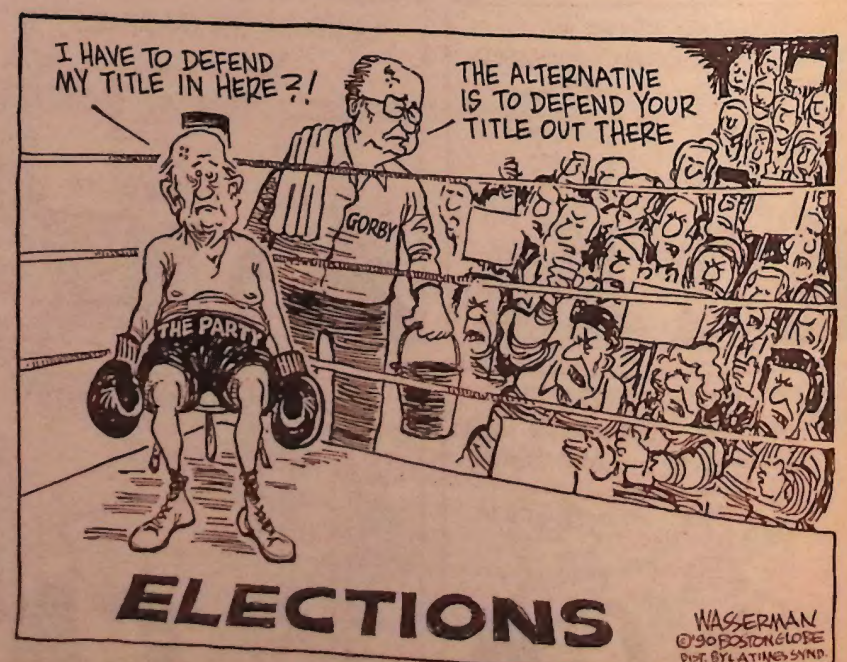
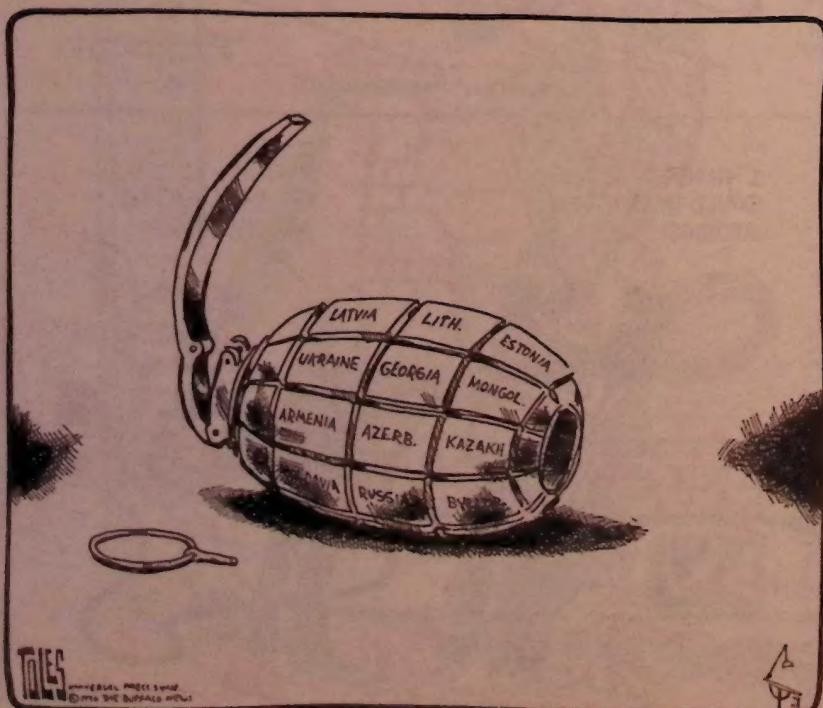
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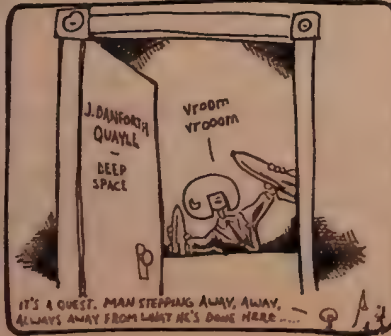
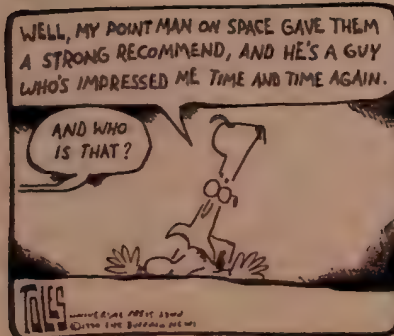
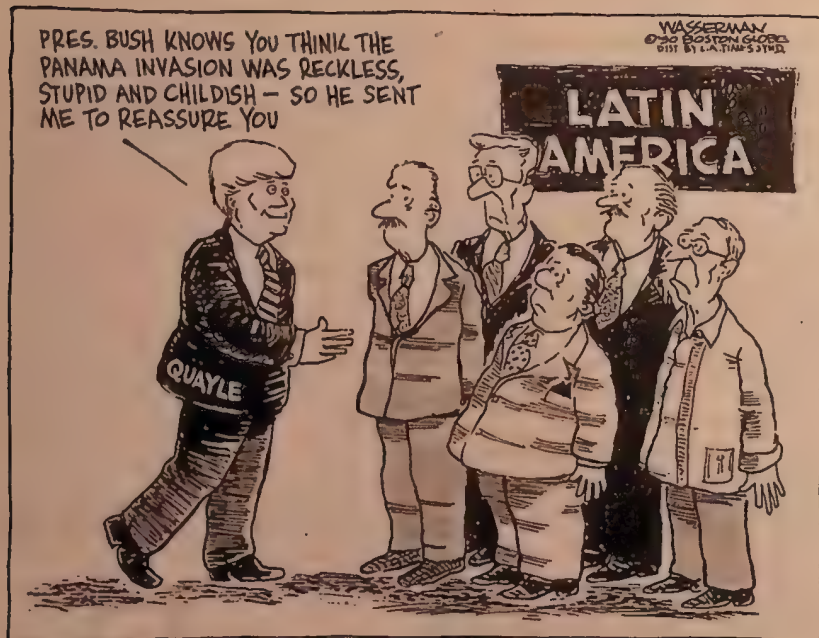
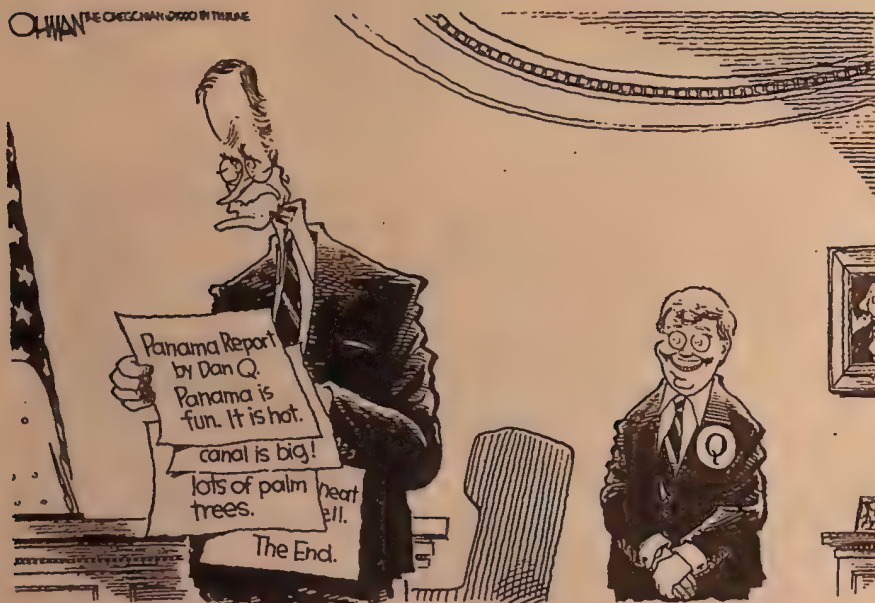
"Leave us in peace will ya... so we can start killing each other again?!"



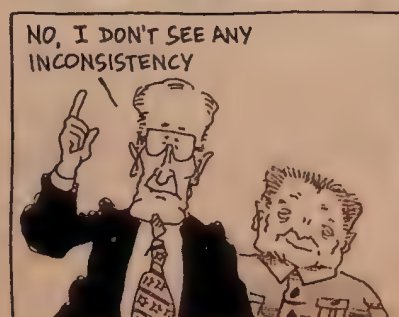
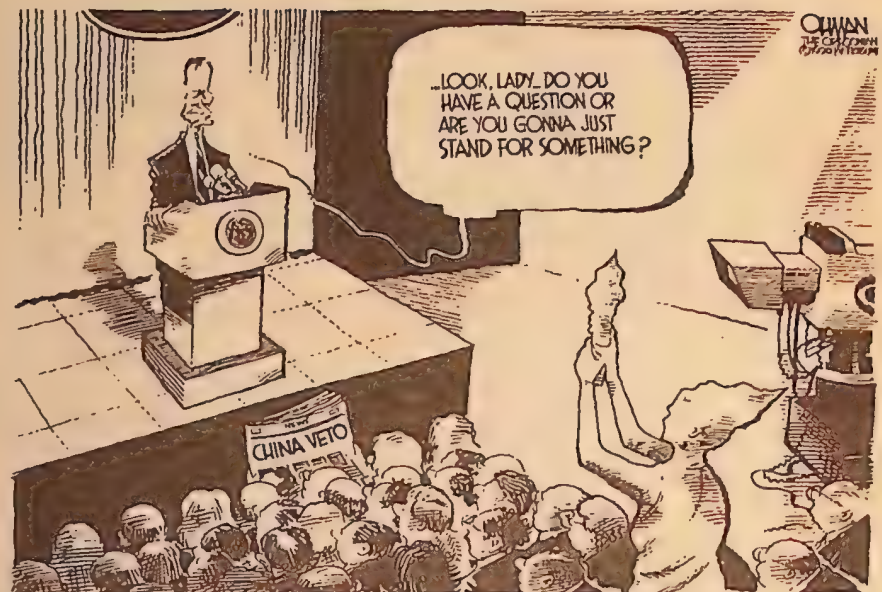
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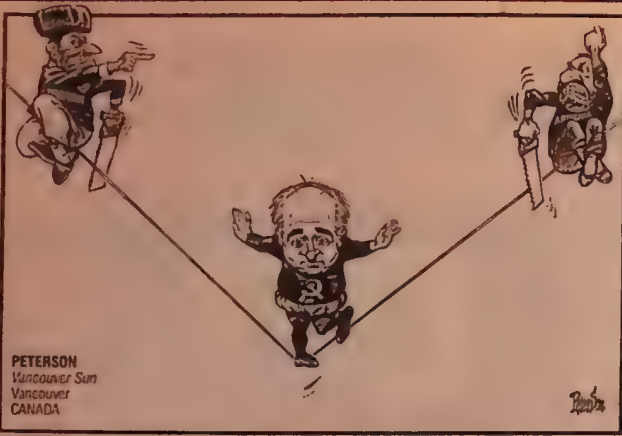


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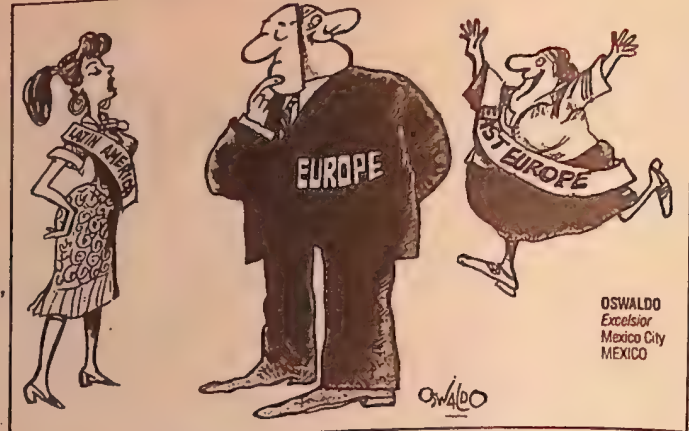


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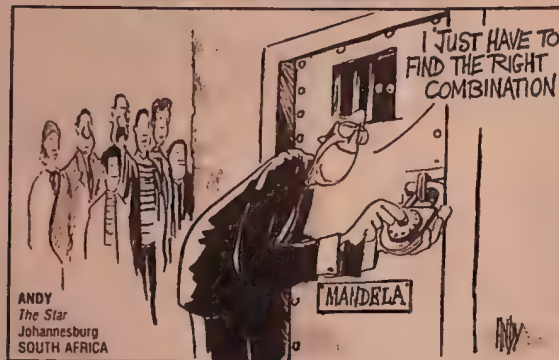
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Medical researchers studied people with brain damage suffered in war. Among them were many who spoke more than one language. In each, if the injury wiped out memory of one of the languages, it almost invariably was the language learned last. Conclusion: The earlier the memory, the more deeply it's buried in the mind.

If you think your salary is too low, stick around. One prognosticator a decade ago predicted the average weekly paycheck by the year 2050 will be \$11,538.46. Nothing in the last 10 years, he says, suggests that prediction should be changed.

Here's a job for you — lightbulb changer. Manhattan's Plaza Hotel has such an employee. Doesn't do anything but replace lightbulbs. About 30,000 of them.

Q. Weren't most of this country's great universities founded or endowed by men who never went to college?

A. You can say that about Yale, Cornell, Brown, the University of Chicago. Don't know about most.

Hawaii is listed as that place on earth with the highest concentration of endangered species. Leading the list, I presume, are Hawaiians.

Q. Says here horse collars weren't invented until about A.D. 1000. So how did earlier horses pull loads?

A. With their tails.

Medical statisticians say chances of dying of a heart attack are 40 percent less today than 25 years ago. But the doctors don't know why.

Female psychiatrists tend to see their patients more frequently than do male psychiatrists. A blind computer check of appointment records so indicates, but doesn't suggest why.

Mention this on St. Patrick's Day: In General George Washington's army were 695 soldiers named Kelly and 492 named Murphy.

Q. What's been the worst natural disaster on record in the Western hemisphere?

A. The 1970 earthquake in Peru. At 7.7 on the Richter. Killed 67,000, injured 50,000, destroyed 186,000 buildings.

Q. A man named George L. "Western" Leslie was blamed for four-fifths of all the bank robberies in the United States in the 1870s and early 1880s. Was he ever caught?

A. Caught, no. Murdered, yes.

The darker the salad greens, the more vitamin A.

Jupiter has a moon called Europa. And Europa has a volcano that spews out neither hot gases nor lava. It erupts snowflakes and chunks of ice.

Am told the dopesters can make crack in a microwave oven in 10 seconds.

You can withstand pain better in the morning than in the afternoon. Or so aver some Chicago researchers. Remember that when making your next dental appointment.

Here's a curious claim: A chemical in chocolate, phenylethylamine, is reported to be quite similar to a hormone released into the brains of people in love. Suppose there's anything to it? Some 17th century theologians condemned chocolate with the charge it incited debasing passions.

At hand is a newspaper clipping which in a single sentence reports: "Thirty-seven million people in the United States have disabilities, and 20 million people live in California."

However much 2,500 people together might weigh, you can figure many a blue whale weighs more.

FUN

Those big clams known to Pacific Northwesterners as "geoducks" live 130 years. Or some do. Scientists have proved it.

Am told the tallest of America's hardwood trees is that 150-foot yellow poplar known as the tulip tree.

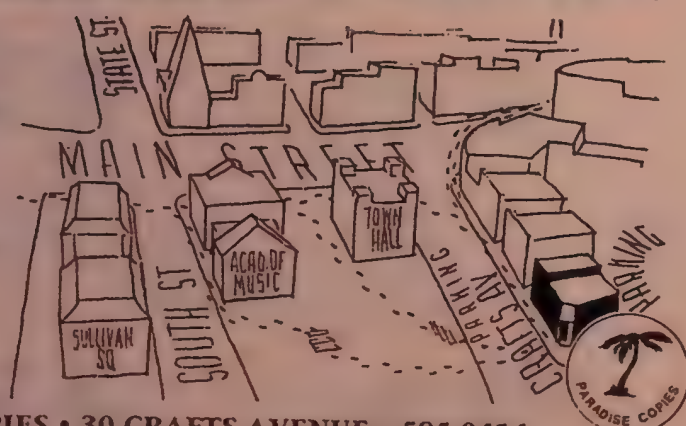
Q. Wasn't Mount Vernon, N.Y., once the capital city of the United States?

A. Unofficially. It so served for two months in 1797. When President John Adams moved to his daughter's home there to get away from a yellow fever epidemic.

Sure, you can catch a rattlesnake in Idaho, but you can't eat it, not legally.

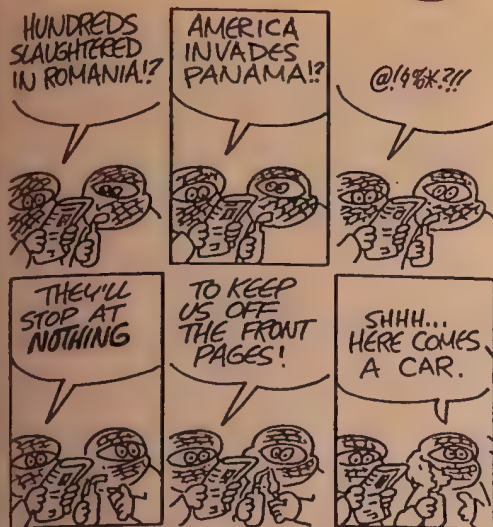
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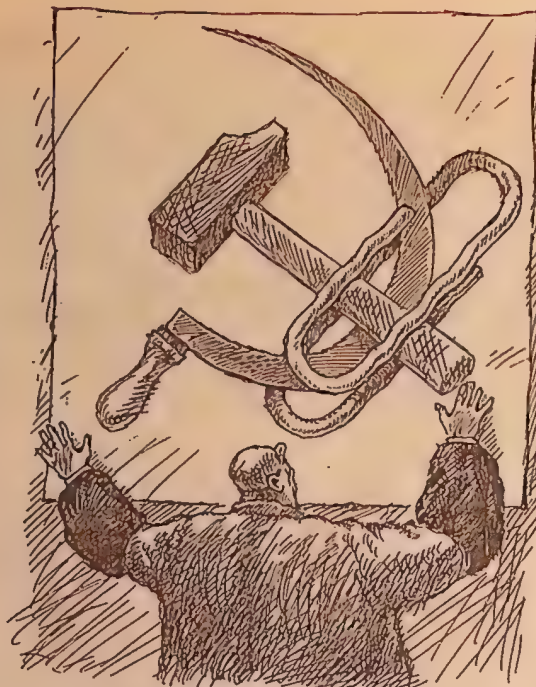


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So getting there is half the fun, is it? The Arctic Tern annually spends three months in the Arctic and three months in the Antarctic — and is in flight six months of the year.

The Spanish-American War, when wars were winnable by those committed to win them, lasted 10 weeks.

Client asks, What were Doc Holliday's last words? In November of 1887, research reveals, the Old West gunfighting dentist was in a sanitarium in Glenwood Springs, Colo. He downed a glass of whiskey. And said, "I'll be damned!" And died.

The sides of your brain do different jobs. You've read that. Researchers now say each side also seems to support a different mood, even a different personality. Could be the Dr. Jekyll in you is on the right, the Mr. Hyde on the left. Or vice versa.

Lost-pet ads in the classifieds run higher than usual a day or so before an earthquake. Such is the reported finding of California geologist Jim Berkland who researched the matter.

Writes a client: "My wife is an excellent judge of other women. And a fine jury. And a good executioner."

Our Chief Prognosticator thinks beauty salons soon will have computer screens wherein a lady customer, viewing a high-resolution image of herself, can push buttons to see how she looks in this hair-do or that one, then choose.

Q. The White House is the most visited residence in the United States. What's the second most visited?
A. Graceland Mansion.

Q. What's the male-to-female ratio among people over 65?
A. 100 women per 70 men.

Twenty colleges nationwide at last report offered courses in "Mind Control."

A waiter of lifelong experience contends the bigger the eater, the smaller the tip.

That galaxy called Milky Way is just one of the 25 in its group. Astronomers recently discovered another one near it. They call it Snickers.

Q. Two of our presidents had killed men not in time of war. Andrew Jackson, in a duel. Name the other.

A. Grover Cleveland. In his capacity as public executioner of murderers when he was a sheriff.

What are the three words most likely to start a household argument? So inquires a client. Our Love and War man checked his files. He nominates: "Why didn't you...?"

Pollsters have told the National Geographic that five out of 10 Americans surveyed couldn't find Spain on a world map.

Wisconsin law requires any elephant strolling outdoors to be on a leash.

Yes, sir, the Sahara is larger than the United States.

When you look at a full moon, you see an area only about a fifth the size of Africa.

Was Galileo who said, "I've never met a man so ignorant I couldn't learn something from him." Could be you know somebody Galileo never met?

FACTS

Writes a client: "Only reason I get out of the bed in the morning is I can't carry it with me all day."

Were you aware the cornea of an ostrich's eye is interchangeable with a human cornea?

Q. When a couple has their first child, odds run pretty even whether it will be a boy or a girl. But what are the odds their second child will be the same sex as the first?
A. Five to three against.

"If your cat seems angry with you," says a vet with a fair following of feline fanciers, "Most likely that cat is ill."



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Etna Alert

British geologists warned that Sicily's Mount Etna appears poised for a volcanic eruption that could equal the devastating 1980 blast of Mount St. Helens in the United States. In a study published Thursday in the journal *Nature*, W.J. McGuire and colleagues from the West London Institute warned that "the potential for future, if not imminent, slope failure is increasing." One of the most alarming developments is the upward movement of volcanic rocks which has displaced a 9-foot stretch of the western rim of the volcano's crater. Mount Etna, one of the world's most active volcanoes, is surrounded by fertile vineyards and citrus groves as well as several large towns that lie less than 25 miles away. In 1669, an eruption killed 20,000 people.

Solar Epidemic

As a particularly nasty strain of flu virus spread further around the Northern Hemisphere, a British astronomer theorized that high solar activity may be responsible for major influenza outbreaks on Earth. Sir Fred Hoyle's analysis suggests that flu pandemics occurred at about the same time as peak sunspot activity, unusually often, during solar cycles from 1761 to 1893 and from 1919 to 1979. "Electrical fields associated with intense solar winds can drive charged particles of the size of viruses down to the lower atmosphere," possibly causing the link to influenza, Hoyle wrote. The sun is currently approaching peak of an 11-year sunspot cycle.

Drought

Agricultural officials requested president Aquino to declare parts of the Philippines to be under a state of calamity after a continuing severe drought brought water levels to critically low levels. House Speaker Ramon Mitra blamed the drought on illegal log-

ging practices and called for the expansion of irrigation systems in vital crop areas.

Lightning

Six people were struck dead by lightning and another two were injured as thunderstorms lashed northern Namibia. The deaths caused panic among superstitious residents, who believe God struck the six dead for raising their fists to the sky in a traditional South West Africa People's Organization salute.

Three children were killed by lightning while walking home from school on the outskirts of Johannesburg.

Floods

The worst floods to strike Tunisia since 1969 have killed at least 25 people and left 6,000 homeless. Bridges were out, and entire provinces were isolated by flood waters after four days of incessant heavy rains.

More than 5,000 people were evacuated during weekend flooding in Paraguay along the Parana River. Government sources said the situation was critical in most major Paraguayan cities along the Parana — Latin America's second largest river which flows from Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina.

Earthquakes

Two strong tremors hit Teheran and a region east of the Iranian capital, cracking buildings. Earth movements were also felt in the northern Philippines, Peru, and in southern portions of Indiana and New England.

Marooned Moose

A moose calf stranded on drifting ice was spotted by workers aboard several oil drilling platforms in Alaska's Cook Inlet. Plans for a rescue were called off because of fears that the 400 pound calf would either fall off the ice

pan and drown when hit with a tranquilizer dart, or would be too heavy to pull to safety. The moose was last seen by the crew of the ARCO King Salmon platform, jumping between ice pans as currents carried it further out to sea.

Wayward Heron

A rare American bittern, blown off-course while migrating from North to Central America, made an epic flight across the Atlantic only to be promptly killed by an Irish hunting dog. "This is a tragedy," top Irish ornithologist Killian Mullarney said after the death of the large brown heron was reported. "It was the first American bittern known to have reached Ireland since 1973, so lots of people would have liked to have seen it," Mullarney lamented.

Additional Sources: U. S. Climate Analysis Center, U. S. Earthquake Information Center and the World Meteorological Organization.



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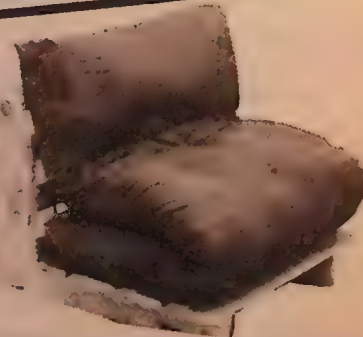
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Atomic City



The electronic clock in the newly-built Soviet city of Slavutich, 120 miles north of Kiev, not only gives the time and temperature, but also indicates the current level of nuclear radiation. Slavutich was built from scratch over the past three years to house the workers and their families who were evacuated after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

Three of Chernobyl's reactors continue to operate, and the 5,000 employees who commute the 35 miles from Slavutich to there by rail must change trains when they reach the 18-mile restricted zone around the plant. The area is still heavily contaminated by fallout. They also have to change clothes three times — once when they leave the plant, again when they leave the plant's railway station, and finally when arriving at Slavutich. Showers and radiation detectors are provided in all three locations. Officials say the average radiation level of 10-12 microrems is safe enough to live and work in for 320 years without ill effects.

Chernobyl workers earn twice as much as those at other nuclear plants, and have to work only ten years to get a pension. They also have the rare Soviet privilege of shopping in well-stocked stores with easy-access to consumer goods.

Rare Snows



A blizzard ravaged Japan's main Honshu island, disrupting air, road and rail traffic on Thursday. The 11 inches of snow that fell in the Tokyo area was the heaviest to blanket the capital in seven years. Osaka received its first snow in three years, and a number of highways in western Japan were closed.

The same blizzard earlier produced the heaviest snowfall on record across South Korea. The weight of the wet snow crushed houses, factories and greenhouses, killing



one woman and causing an estimated \$5.1 million in property damage. Near Taejon, south of Seoul, some 1,400 pigs and chickens perished when roofs of livestock sheds collapsed on them.

Snow settled on Mount Antar in the Saharan desert near the Algeria-Morocco border for the first time in more than a decade. The heavy, and rare, snowfall followed disastrous floods that have killed 30 people, and left many thousands homeless in parts of North Africa.



Meteor

Scientists say the strange blueish-green light seen by thousands in the eastern United States on Saturday night was probably an unusually large meteor. One of the witnesses of the colorful streak was David Arnold, air traffic control supervisor at Washington's Dulles Airport, who said "It lasted 25-30 seconds and went from brilliant white to orange as it finally broke up."

Earthquakes



The second earthquake to rattle the region within four days was felt in southern Indiana and northwestern Kentucky. Earth movements were also felt in New Mexico, Nepal, Athens, the Aleutian Islands, Algiers, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, and on Japan's Hokkaido island.

Tropical Storms



Tropical Storm Nancy lashed the Queensland coast with gales and locally heavy rain as it made landfall just north of Lismore. Cyclone Cezera was predicted to form late in the week northwest of Madagascar.

Siberian Cold



Severe cold has forced Soviet officials in the eastern Siberian town of Shita to cut factory hours in half, and to reduce television broadcasts and reactivate old diesel power stations.

Overnight lows have recently dipped to 54 degrees below zero.

Moose Dilemma



This winter has been so snowy in Alaska's Susitna Valley that moose calves are begging for food in yards and driveways, and many are starving to death. Moose numbers normally decline in severe winters because young, weak animals must struggle hard to find food as they move through the deep snow. The dilemma for residents is whether or not to feed the starving animals. Bill Collins, a Fish and Game wildlife biologist, warned that "once moose are fed, they are extremely reluctant to leave, and they can be very dangerous." One moose, recently fed, tried to push its way into a woman's house. Another trampled a woman when she got out of her car.

Additional Sources: Australian Bureau of Meteorology, French Meteorological Station at Reunion, U. S. Climate Analysis Center and the U. S. Earthquake Information Center.



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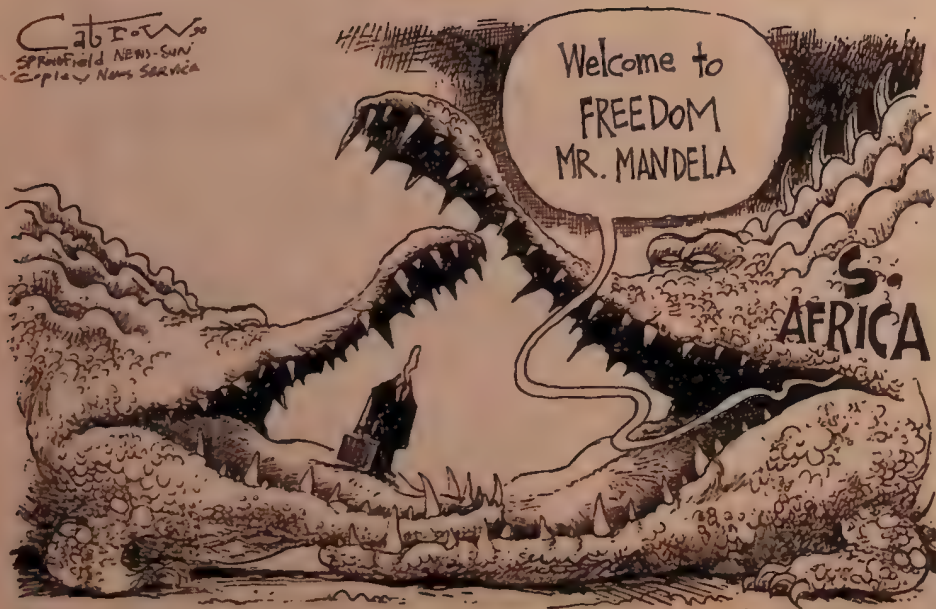
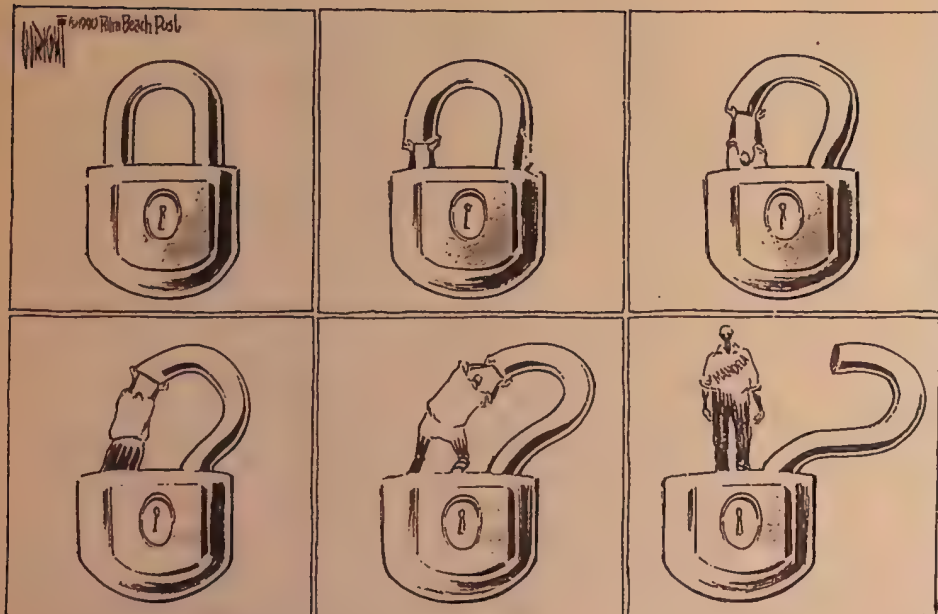
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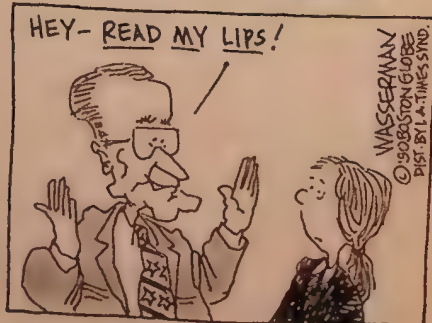
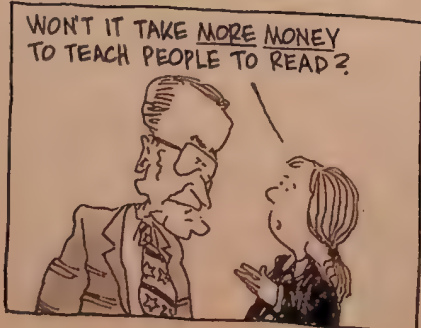
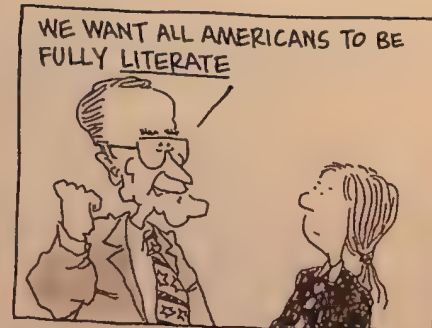
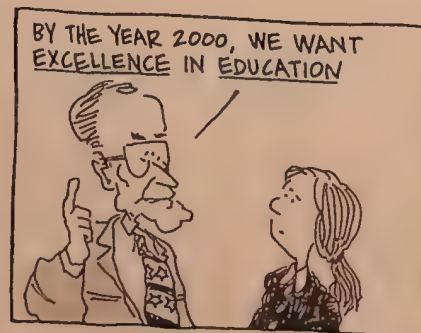
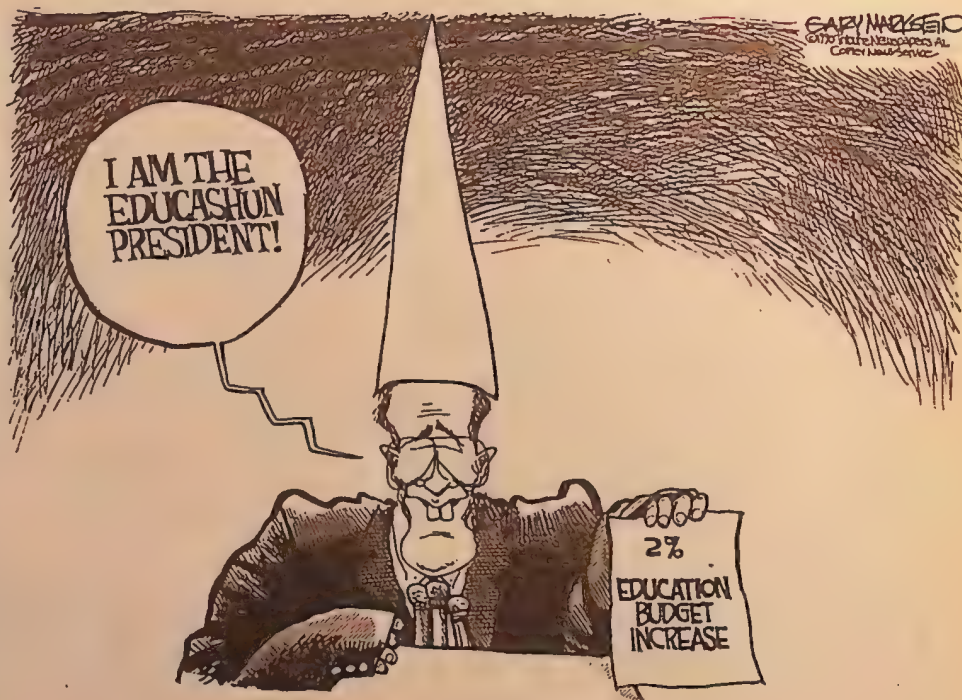
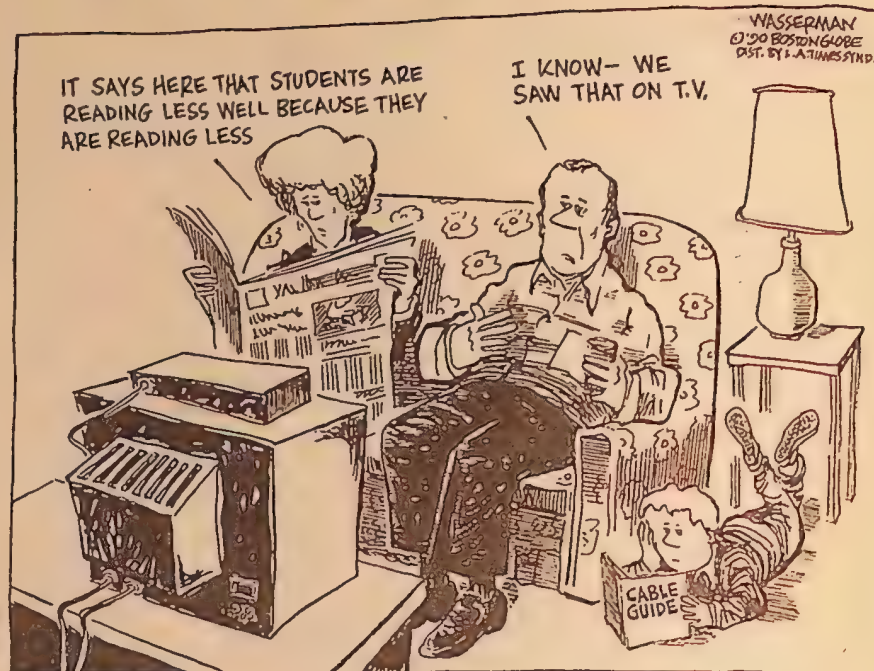
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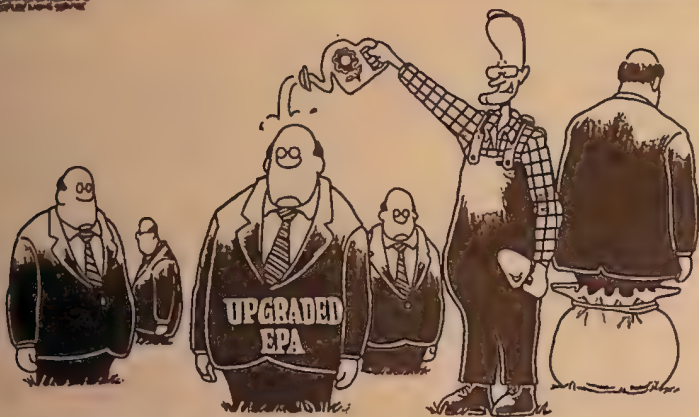
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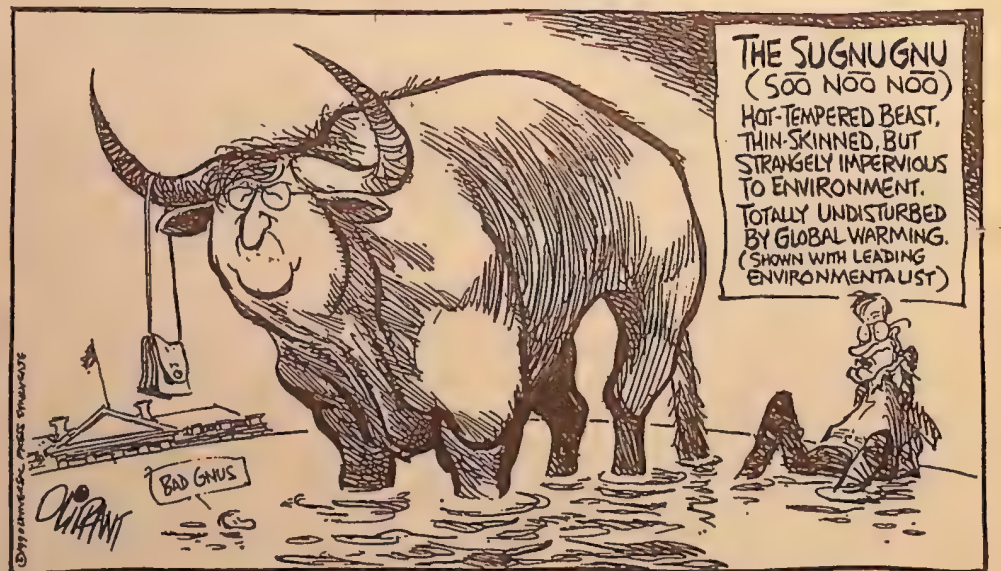
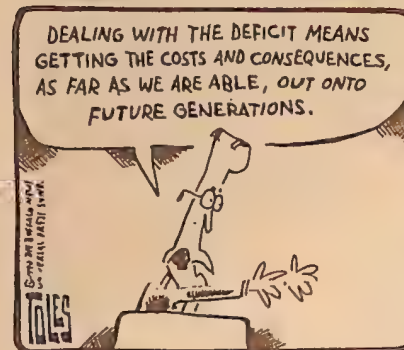


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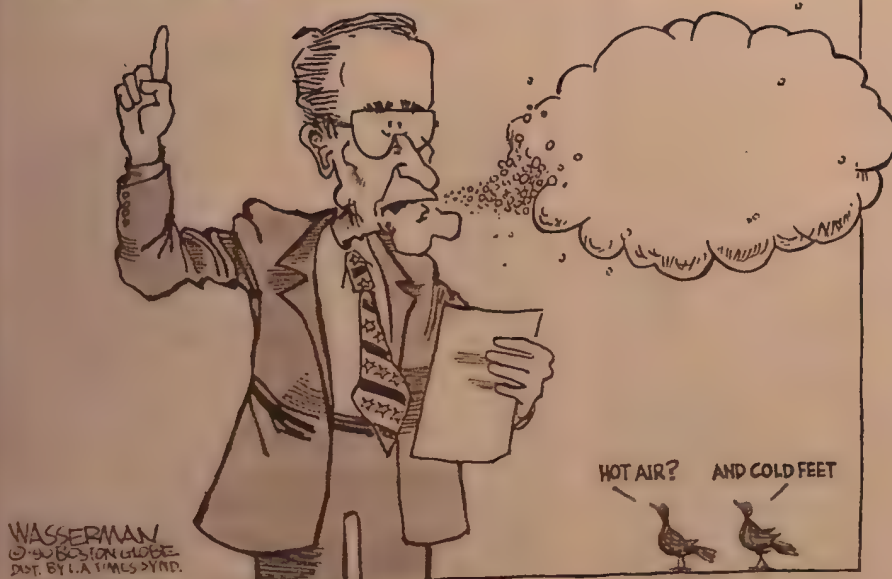
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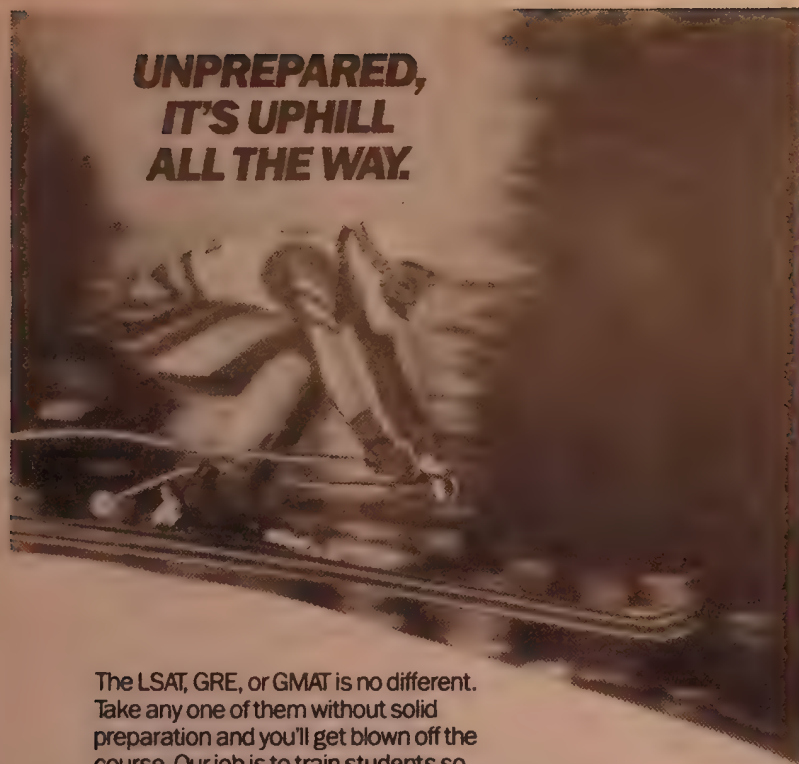


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THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



And down they went: Bob and Francine — two more victims of the La Brea Carpets.



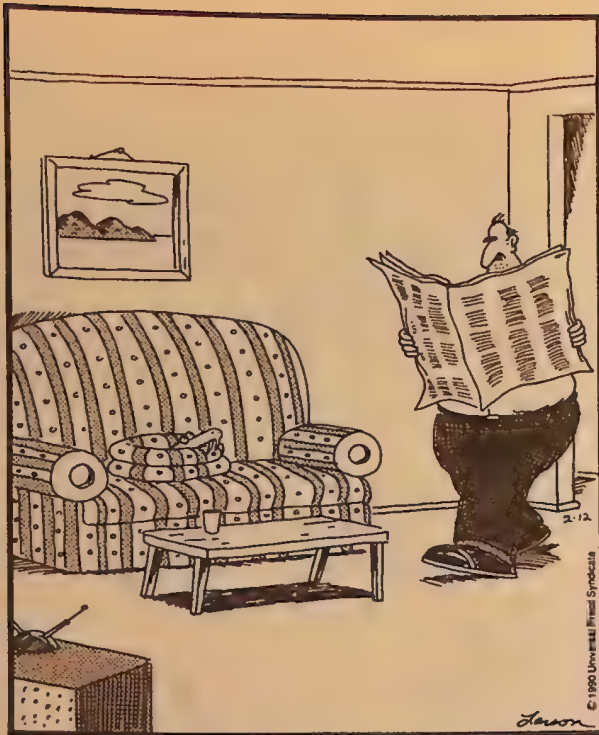
Suddenly, second-chair granite rock's jealousy of first-chair granite rock becomes uncontrollable.



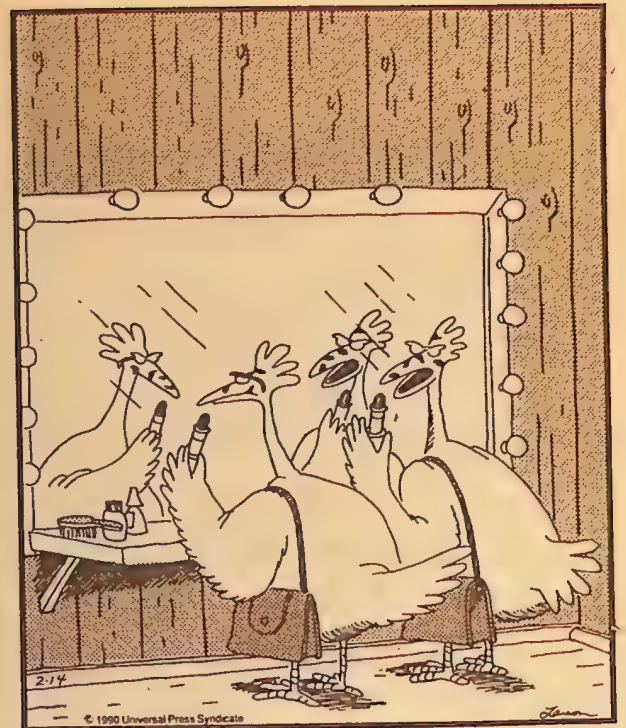
The untold ending to the fable, "The Grasshopper and the Ant."



With Roger out of the way, it was Sidney's big chance.



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"This is no use, Wanda. It's like they say — we just don't have lips."



Wildlife day shifts



The parenting advantages of dentists



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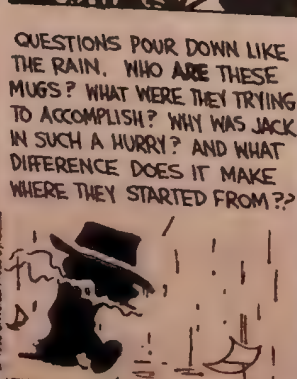
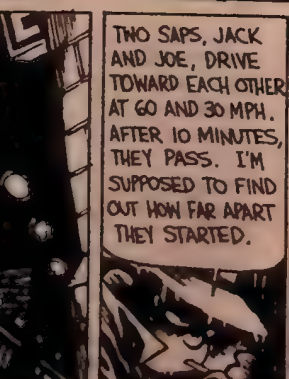
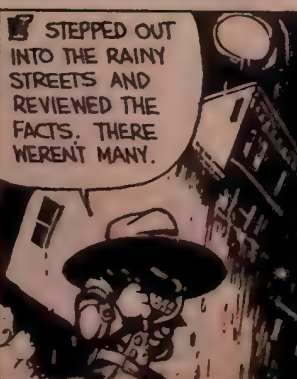
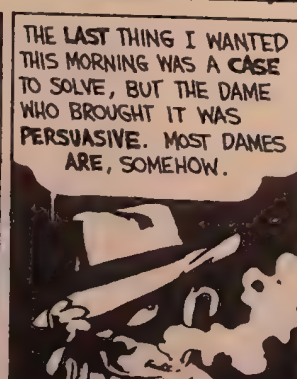
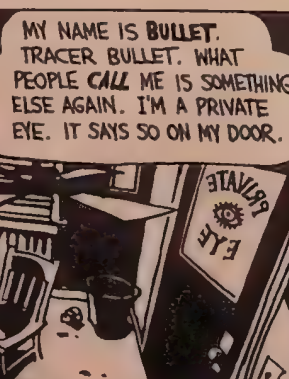
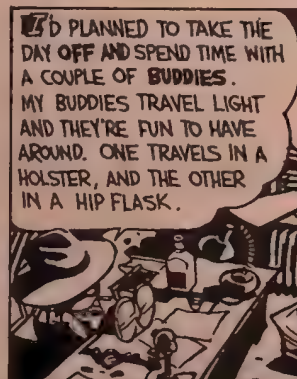
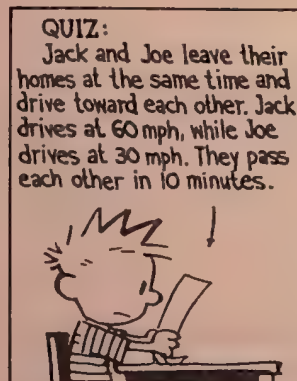
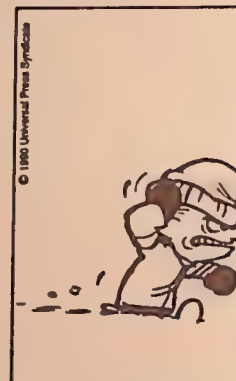
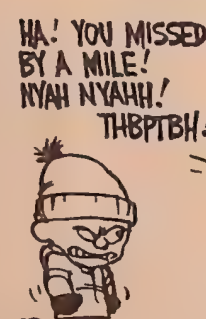
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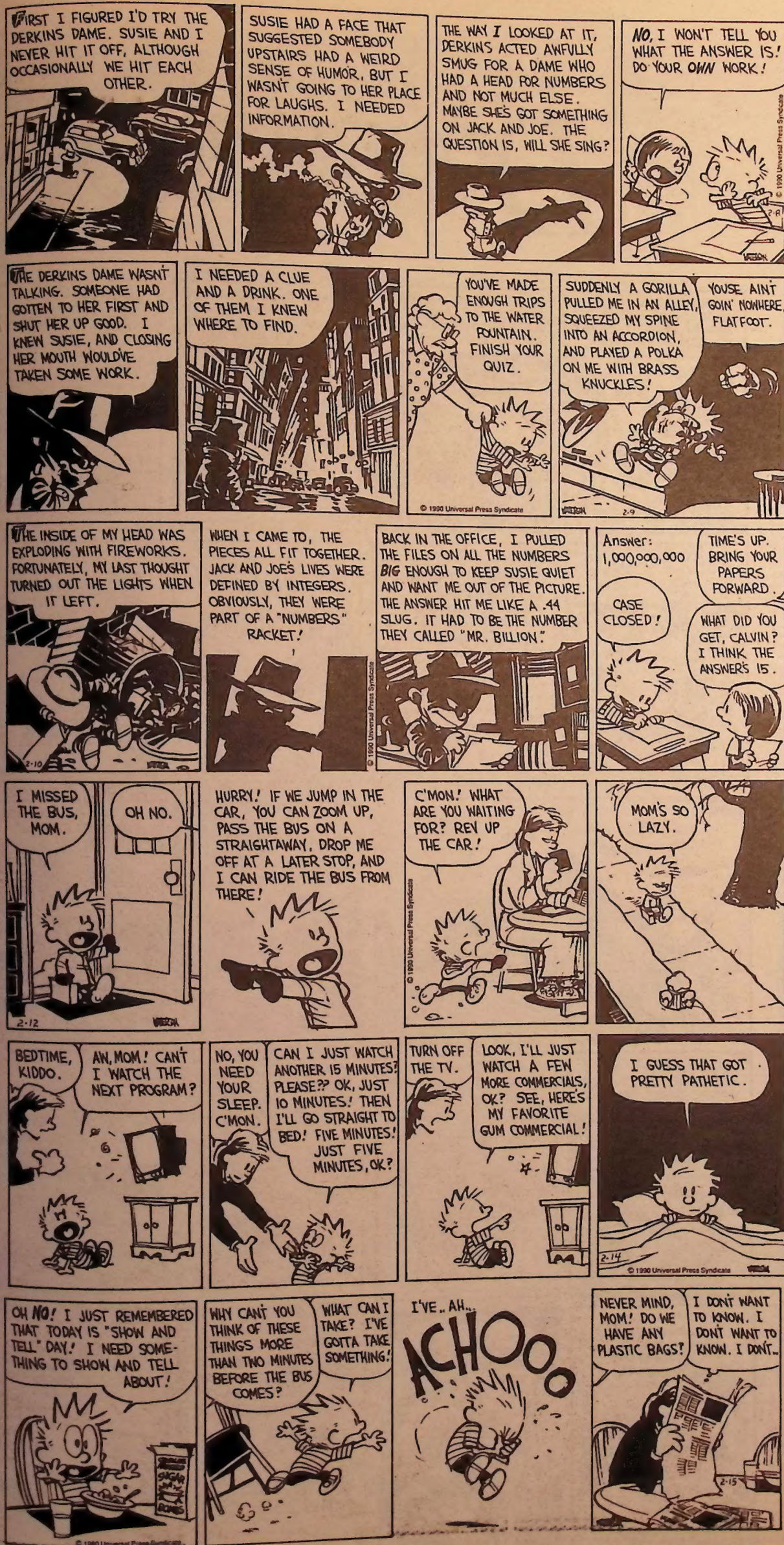
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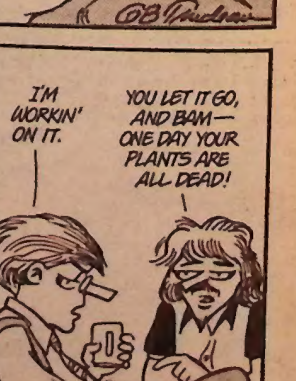
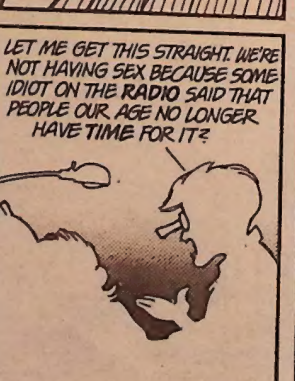
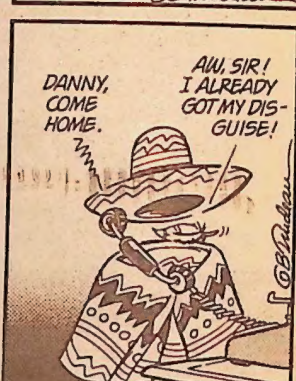
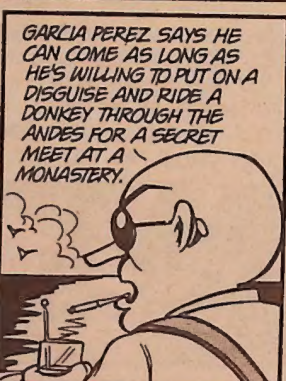
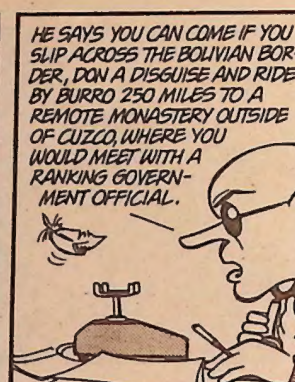
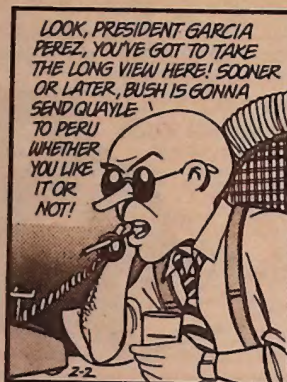
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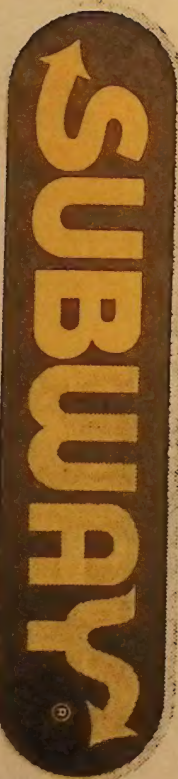
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